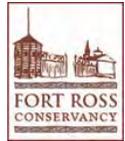


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# Fort Ross & Salt Point Parks News



April 2015

This issue features:

FRC Update  
Alaska Native Day  
Marine Ecology Class  
Call House Video  
Save the Date  
FRF  
Intertidal Species

Fort Ross is open  
Friday - Monday  
10am-4:30pm

The Call House Museum and  
Garden is open first weekend of  
each month from 1 to 4 PM.  
Please visit our website for more  
information on the park hours.

Fort Ross Conservancy  
501c3 / California Cooperating  
Association  
[www.fortross.org](http://www.fortross.org)  
707-847-3437  
[info@fortross.org](mailto:info@fortross.org)  
Tours in English & Russian  
Information on special events  
Visitor Center and sales

California State Parks  
Interpreters at Fort Ross  
Fort Ross State Historic Park  
[www.fortrossstatepark.org](http://www.fortrossstatepark.org)  
ELP, ELDP, & School Groups  
Junior Ranger & Boy Scout  
programs  
Talks at the fort compound  
707-847-4777

Dear friends of Fort Ross and Salt Point,

You might wonder why we've posted a photo of a Korean magazine as our e-news lead. Thanks to Sonoma County Tourism, Fort Ross had a great write-up in this [Korean language travel magazine](#), and we also were listed in a [British blog](#) as a family-friendly travel destination. We love good press!



We've always known that Fort Ross and Salt Point should be considered international destinations, but it takes more than strong conviction to cheerlead that enthusiasm into reality, or to put it more tangibly, visitation - more people enjoying our parks. I myself was slow to adapt. While I volunteered with FRC for a decade, it wasn't until I joined as staff that I realized that Fort Ross, and all parks for that matter, need to be promoted. FRC and State Parks steward a beautiful and historically meaningful stretch of coastline, but to ensure that we're open for business over the next decade and more, we need to educate and encourage visitors to experience this unique place first-hand. It's our job to spread the word, to create an event calendar that draws a wide audience of history buffs and nature lovers, foodies and families, orchardists and oenophiles, volunteers, adventurers, Russians, Americans, and Russian Americans. To that end, we've worked hard to get Fort Ross listed in [Yelp](#) and in many California tour books, and we're on the map with [TripAdvisor](#), where we've earned their Certificate of Excellence and are their #1 site in Jenner - admittedly, sweet rural Jenner has only 5 destination locations listed, but still a coup! And we are indeed getting more international visitors every season.

Help us to spread the word - add your voice to the social media promotion by visiting our [media](#) page. Like us, tweet, pin and post. And most importantly, come visit.

See you at the park,

Recommended Websites  
California State Parks Foundation  
Sonoma Birding  
Wikipedia on Fort Ross  
California State Parks  
Salt Point State Park



Sarah Sweedler  
Fort Ross Conservancy  
President & CEO  
sarahs@fortross.org



Register or Update Your Email  
Address

## Contact Us

Fort Ross Conservancy  
Fort Ross State Historic Park  
19005 Coast Highway One  
Jenner, CA 95450

info@fortross.org  
707-847-3437

Fort Ross Website



## May 16th - Alaska Native Day



Fort Ross Conservancy is pleased to welcome the Alaska Native community to Fort Ross to teach their arts and crafts on the land they once shared with the Native Kashia and Russian communities. Here are a few highlights from the day's program:

- Reno Franklin, Chairman of the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, welcomes the Alaska Natives to Metini (Fort Ross) to dance with Su Nu Nu Shinal.
- Performances by Anchorage Unangax Dancers,
- Dr. Gordon L. Pullar, associate professor emeritus at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and a Kodiak Island Sugpiaq (Alutiiq), will speak on The Russian-Alaskan Creole, Then and Now. He has an intense interest in researching the ethno-history of Kodiak Island and his own family history that includes ancestry from indigenous people of Kodiak Island as well as Russians who worked in the fur trade in Russian America.
- Traditional Russian Orthodox blessing of the boats by Father Juvenal, followed by Iqyan (kayak) race in Sandy Cove. See 2015 race map for rules -- no plastic kayaks allowed.
- A hands-on demonstration build of a Nigilax (baidara, or large open kayak).
- Kids' crafts: Face "tattooing," language games, petroglyph rock painting, Chagudax (hunter's hats), spear throwing.
- Demonstrations: Beading, Chagudax carving.
- Slow smoked BBQ with fresh coleslaw for sale from BBQ Smokehouse Bistro & Catering will be available, with vegetarian options. Or pack a picnic lunch if you desire.
- All that and dried fish!

Special event fees apply: \$10 collected at the Visitor Center for the presentation, children free. We'd like to thank Lauren Peters for her tremendous work on organizing this event, as well as our sponsors, Aleut Corporation, Agnes Larsen Darnell Scholarship, Ounalashka Corporation, REI, Alaska Pribilof Island Association, and private donors.

Please visit our [Alaska Native Day](#) webpage for more information.

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## Marine Ecology Update



FRC's [Marine Ecology](#) program provides experiential outdoor learning and encourages ocean stewardship. We're busily bringing middle and high school students to Fort Ross to explore the park's historical and contemporary ties to the Pacific Ocean and marine ecology. Thanks to the [California Coastal Commission](#) and [Renova Fort Ross Foundation](#), we can offer fee waivers and scholarships to students who otherwise could not afford to participate. Read more about the curriculum and consider joining us.



Email us for an online application at [sondrah@fortross.org](mailto:sondrah@fortross.org)

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## Now Online: Call House Museum Movie



FRC has just released a [22-minute film documenting the Call House museum](#). In 1878 George W. Call built this Fort Ross residence as headquarters for his ranch and shipping operations, and as a home for his family which included nine children.



Author and FRC Volunteer Extraordinaire Lynn Rudy takes us for a joyful walk through the Call House Museum while describing early-California life on the farm during the American Ranch period. You'll learn how hand-crank telephones work and how the square-grand piano found its way from Boston to rural Sonoma coast. The movie, directed and produced by Sally Foster of Far & Away Productions, a Brooklyn based documentary company, is currently only [available online](#), but once we add the required open and closed captioning we will also show the film in the Fort Ross Visitor Center.

The Call family lived in this house for almost a century until son Carlos, the last occupant, died in 1972. The Call House museum first opened to visitors in May of 2003, and many of its furnishings belong to the Call family. Dedicated volunteers maintain the historic garden and give guided tours from

1pm to 4pm on the first weekend of each month.

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## Save The Dates Upcoming Events



Harbor Seal Surveys led by [Hank Birnbaum](#):

April 27th - 1:00pm

May 2nd - 4:30pm

May 9th - 9:30am

Contact Hank Birnbaum at [hankb@fortross.org](mailto:hankb@fortross.org)



Salt Point Hikes led by [Susanna Barlow](#):

May 10th - 12pm Kruse Rhododendron Reserve Mother's Day Hike

Meet at noon at the Kruse Rhododendron loop trail parking area, just north of Fisk Mill Cove day use at Salt Point State Park. Wear sturdy shoes, some elevation gain, hike goes for one hour.



May 16th - 10am Wildflower Hike along the marine terraces  
Meet at 10 am at Stump Beach parking area, Salt Point State Park.  
Carpets of Sea Thrift, Coastal Tidy Tips, Goldfields, and Seaside Daisy.  
Bring binoculars to view Pelagic Cormorants nesting on far cliffs. Hike goes for one hour.

Questions? Please contact Susanna Barlow; [susannab@fortross.org](mailto:susannab@fortross.org)

May 16th - 10am - 4:30pm Alaska Native Day

June 6th - 8:30am & 12pm Seaweed Workshop

June 14th - 10:30am Pine Needle Basket Making Workshop

July 25th - Fort Ross Festival

For more information please visit our [Events](#) page, call at 707-847-3437 or Email at [info@fortross.org](mailto:info@fortross.org)

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## July 25th Fort Ross Festival



Welcome, summertime! At Fort Ross Festival we celebrate the wonderful diverse international flavors and cultures of Fort Ross. This year's event will highlight the Kashia, Russian, Alaska Native, and California ranch era people who have called Fort Ross home over the centuries. We'll offer costumed historical vignettes, hands-on crafts, cooking demonstrations, militia cannon firings, horse and buggy rides, music & dance from numerous cultures, an international food bazaar -- and of course the Fort Ross beer garden!

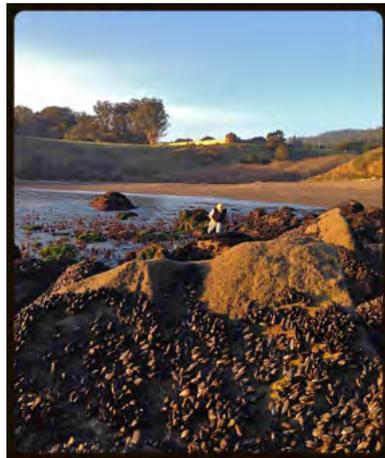
This year we are particularly excited to welcome the [St Petersburg's Horn Orchestra of Russia](#). Thanks to support from Renova Fort Ross Foundation and Russia's Ministry of Culture, this fantastic ensemble will hold two performances during the day.

Special event fee will apply.

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## Rocky Intertidal Species of Fort Ross



Over the last 10 weeks, I've been soaking up information like a (sea) sponge while attending the California Naturalist Certification Program offered through UC Davis and Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods. The course combines classroom and field experience in science, problem-solving, communications, training, and community service. The goal is to create 'active members in a growing movement of conservation, citizen science, and volunteer activism.'

I am now a certified California Naturalist! It was one of the most rewarding, educational experiences of my adult life. My dream in completing this course is to be qualified as a Fort Ross Conservancy guide, shepherding small groups of adults or children to explore the incredible tide pools at Fort Ross and Salt Point parks that I have fallen in love with. We will coordinate with other marine ecology organizations already working on collecting coastline data so that we can add a Rocky Intertidal Monitoring educational program here at Fort Ross. Collecting this data is crucial in keeping records of our unique and diverse marine ecosystem, particularly as the environment responds to climate change. We've set up two new webpages. The first page lists the beautiful creatures we find most often in our [rocky intertidal zones](#). Our other



new content links to an interactive naturalist site called iNaturalist: The [Marine Ecology of Fort Ross](#) iNaturalist project identifies these species, and encourages visitors such as yourself to add your own data. Even if you are not yet an expert on marine creatures, iNat's visuals, descriptions and community will help you properly ID what you see. We hope you get involved!

– [Sondra K Hunter](#), Special Events Manager & Bookshop Buyer

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